Subcommittee on Federal Lands U.S. House Natural Resources Committee 1324 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

## Dear Congress:

Thank you for your support of the ongoing effort to honor the American women of World War II with a memorial in our nation's capital. The undersigned groups represent a coalition committed to honoring the service and sacrifice of the American women of World War II, and we urge you to enact the bipartisan World War II Women's Memorial Location Act (S.1108/H.R.2290) to authorize the construction of the memorial for the American women of World War II on the National Mall.

During World War II, more than 18 million women answered the call to hold down the home front by working as pilots, engineers, electricians, mechanics, code breakers, and more. These women served as the backbone of the war effort and built planes, tanks, munitions, and other equipment for American troops. As then-General Eisenhower said, "The contribution of the women of America, whether on the farm or in the factory or in uniform, to D-Day was a sine qua non of the invasion effort."

America's "Rosie the Riveters" not only helped win the war and save countless American lives, they also inspired future generations of women to join the workforce and serve their country. Their enduring legacy merits recognition not just in Washington, D.C., but on the National Mall. In 2022, Congress passed bipartisan legislation (Pub. L. No. 117-328) authorizing the WWII Women's Memorial Foundation to establish a memorial in Washington, D.C. The effort is now in the site selection and approval phase. Just as the Vietnam Women's Memorial was dedicated yards away from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to honor the 265,000 military and civilian women who served during the Vietnam Era, this memorial should be dedicated on the National Mall to honor the more than 18 million American women who helped win the fight for freedom.

It is critically important that Congress quickly pass this legislation so the living Rosies—many of whom are celebrating their 98<sup>th</sup>, 99<sup>th</sup>, 100<sup>th</sup> birthdays and beyond—can see the memorial in their lifetimes. The Foundation's current authority to establish a memorial in D.C. also expires in just five years, so we urge Congress to act now.

Thank you for your leadership on this important effort to honor the American women of World War II.

Sincerely,

WWII Women's Memorial Foundation American Rosie the Riveter Association Best Defense Foundation Glenn L. Martin Aviation Museum Honor Rosie Pacific Historic Park Rosie the Riveter Trust Women Veterans Alliance